



S-E-C-R-E-T

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4. About 10 steel motor fishing vessels were based there. They were well equipped. They never strayed beyond two miles from the shore, and were under the continuous watch of naval patrol boats during the day and searchlights at night.
5. Inside the northwestern corner of the harbor, there was a naval area of some 8,000 to 9,000 square meters bounded by large stone breakwaters. This area harbored motor gunboats, motor patrol boats, MTR's, sutchasers, and submarines. Soviet naval units moved in and out frequently. Several powerful searchlights were installed on the coast near the port, and were operated by army men who searched the water throughout the night. [ ] did not notice any artillery batteries near the city, but [ ] stated that there were undoubtedly some to protect the port. There were no airfields reported near the town, but the fact is, that the area was flown over by swift fighters and heavy bombers, around the clock; it is believed that these craft were based in the general vicinity of Tuapse. Aircraft of various types were seen to maneuver near the city.
6. Foreign ships which berthed in Tuapse were closely watched and at night, the sentries on the shore side were doubled, while a motor patrol boat, with doused lights, was anchored on the outboard side. The police and customs officers no longer inspected the foreign ships as carefully as they formerly did, but they sealed the ship's radio and any cameras that may have been owned by the crew. Officers' and crews' quarters were no longer inspected; the crew was checked for its identification papers. Foreign currencies in the possession of individuals was strictly checked. This new method of inspection appeared to be artificially polite and was done to hide the marks of a police state. In effect, there was strict control, so that no person could think of going ashore with any article. Civilians who came aboard for work reasons, as loading representatives, customs officials, etc., were carefully watched by the border police and carried a special pass which was handed to the policeman on watch and kept by him while they were aboard. It has been noticed that these officials usually were poorly dressed and showed a certain fear of the local police who watched their every move.
7. No provisions were available in this town; only in case of dire and proved necessity, would any food supply be made. The bread eaten by the people was black and unedible for [ ] fellow nationals on the crew; the price was 2 rubles a kilogram, which is equal to approximately 320 lire. There were no worthwhile public restaurants. There were a few taverns which dispensed a liquid called beer, which was expensive for westerners at the rate of exchange (1 ruble for 150 lire; 4 rubles for one US dollar). There were only two motion picture theaters, in poor condition from the viewpoints of equipment and public restrooms. The People's House was the only recreational spot in the town for the majority of the population. The people were generally ill-clothed, undernourished, and showed a sense of apathy and resignation. They would, under no circumstances, approach a foreigner. Young women dressed as men were seen. There were no clothing shops. Food and clothing was still rationed. The latter was stingily distributed; the wearing period was fixed by special tables.

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